United Nations E/2016/NGO/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
20 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Association Internationale Droits Homme, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

16-08197 (E) 240516

Please recycle

Statement*

I. Introduction

The International Human Rights Association is a Non-Governmental Organization working for women's empowerment in countries under the yoke of racism, discrimination and inequality. This short presentation will insist on the agenda of the International Human Rights Association about the place of the Woman in society.

II. Methodology

To understand the debate on women's empowerment, the theoretical background of our NGO has always been that of Feminism. Despite the different types of feminist approaches like Muslim Feminism, Black Feminism and Western Feminism or Third-World Feminism, our approach to Feminism insists on the disparities between the North and the South. In countries torn by war, famine or starvation, like in Kivu province (Democratic Republic of the Congo), South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria, the Federal Republic of Somalia, or northern Cameroon, the issue of survival is the main paradigm of the populations that flee terrorism, collective rapings or starvation.

III. Results

Sustainable development, women's empowerment and the demand for gender equality in the public realm and society

In this part, the case of France is illustrative. Since the 2007 economic crisis, French women have gone through harsh living conditions. In this period of time, women have been considered as the most affected segment of French society in the 2012 European Parliament report on the repercussions of the economic crisis over women.

Therefore, the objective of the International Human Rights Association is to draw the awareness of the French government on gender disparities to, among other issues, the following:

- Implementing reforms to permit women to gain financial independence;
- Changing the vision of the Welfare State about women;
- Defending "equal pay for equal work";
- Unionizing women;
- Making women the breadwinner;
- Avoiding part-time jobs that damage women;
- Fighting against sexism;
- Building equal opportunities for minority groups.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

IV. Conclusion

In 2016 the International Association will be organizing events to sensitize governments urgently to intervene in the realm of human rights, in France and abroad. With the Town Hall of the city of Paris, a documentary entitled, "Abeti MASIKINI: the fight of a life", paying tribute to the late Congolese diva will be aired to recognise one of the most powerful African women in the musical domain and meetings will be held with migrants in the north of France, in the region called Pas-de-Calais, where inter-community violence against women is registered.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Association Miraisme International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

16-08198 (E) 250516

Please recycle

Statement*

Facing such an important step in constituting a global roadmap towards the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a firm and continuing commitment from the political sector, civil society and developmental cooperation agencies, to implement the 2030 Agenda internationally.

It is for that reason that empowering agents of change is one of the most important steps for achieving this objective. Young people play a prominent role in projection in the short, medium and long term, as mentioned by Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary General, in his opening speech at the Youth Forum held in New York, saying: "the voice of young people is crucial for the United Nations. Our success in this gigantic task will depend largely on the extent to which young people are a motor in implementing the agenda".

Despite the economic crisis, scepticism and ethical relativism, many young people are determined to change these circumstances and be proactive. Youth currently participate in society through volunteerism, social programs, citizens' platforms and other mechanisms created to respond to problems they perceive in their immediate environment. This activity by young people in the third sector and other areas of society, contributes to the development and construction of open and innovative communities.

The values of commitment and solidarity of the youth group themselves lead to a generational change in different social settings in which they interact as agents of change, opening a new horizon of transformation and renewal. These values are therefore existential goals that become talents or abilities, which once applied, generate practical results and direct benefits for the community.

For this reason, it is considered that the empowerment of this group should be treated as an engine for social change that will achieve progress in the sustainability of economics, the environment and socially, as presented in the 2030 Agenda.

That said, the promotion of spaces for dialogue, workshops, means of formal and informal education, accompanied by institutional and financial support necessary for youth organisations and projects under the different dimensions of development, are mechanisms that facilitate the leadership of new generations, and thus build enabling environments for achieving the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

Statement*

Keeping in line with the age old adages, "Health is wealth" and "Healthy body bears a healthy mind", Cancer Aid Society successfully initiated the fight against diseases specifically cancer and other Non-Communicable Diseases in 1987 across India. Having the most diversified 1/6th of global population, we wish to share our expertise globally. Since 60 percent of the global population is killed by Non-Communicable Diseases "Good Health and well-being" rightly finds a place at point no. 3 in the Sustainable Development Goals among 17 Goals to transform our world in line with our three decades old philosophy.

With our 28 years of experience on prevention and control of diseases through awareness on tobacco abuse (active and passive smoking), healthy lifestyle, good diet, regular exercise, carcinogens, clean drinking water, pollution, genital and personal hygiene etc. among the future generation i.e. the children and among the adult population. We are demonstrating our will in "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Caritas Internationalis, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08200 (E) 130616

Please recycle

Statement

Leave no one behind — Honouring the pledge!

Caritas Internationalis — as a global development and humanitarian network, walking closely with the poor — embraces the integrated and indivisible approach to a sustainable agenda that pledges to leave no one behind. We applaud that Leave No One Behind, has been selected as a theme for the 2016 HLPF. We believe that effective and holistic approaches to Leave no one behind will be key in the eradication of poverty.

What is "Leave no one behind"?

Caritas views this as an important principle that puts the dignity and equality of the human person at the heart of implementing the SDG agenda. It is our conviction that the Leave no one behind principle must be strengthened and showcased in the way that we approach the implementation of the SDGs.

We have learnt important lessons since the Millennium Development Goals, where accepting targets based on averages and easy-to-reach communities obscured the reality of marginalised groups. Our aim now is about transforming and changing the way development is done to ensure inclusion of the hardest to reach groups.

How can we ensure no one is left behind in the SDGs implementation?

Evidence from our work in more than 200 countries and territories around the world indicates that a successful approach to Leave no one behind is a long term effort that ensures social inclusion is mainstreamed in tackling poverty. An effective approach to Leave no one behind should embody and reflect some of the following principles:

1. Ensure from the onset that there is focus and action on the most marginalised through understanding the demographic composition of populations and social exclusion factors.

It is important to identify group-based identities (for example, women, youth, migrants, minorities) and their specific vulnerabilities leading to inequalities. It is also important to identify key markers of exclusion and in targets on various thematic areas, for example groups affected by climate change or conflict.

2. Build partnerships to enable the participation of the most marginalised

Place emphasis on participation, partnerships with civil society and faith groups, and institutional strengthening. National and global engagement strategies should meaningfully involve communities around SDGs, including by hearing the views of marginalised social and economic groups.

3. New channels for inclusion

Robust stakeholder participation can be achieved by recognising and validating a variety of spaces and ways of participating, such as group discussions, interviews, radio phone in, television and panel interviews with specific groups and expert group meetings. Use of reliable and verifiable data from various sources including citizen-generated data will also foster inclusion. Decision-makers should not just focus on officially established spaces but promote opportunities for all. To make the SDGs a reality, leaving no one behind, targets and indicators must be

locally contextualised and local communities empowered and supported to identify the concerns relevant to their particular context and decide indicators.

4. Address policies and barriers that hinder reaching the most marginalised groups

It is crucial to revisit national/global policies and implementation mechanisms to ensure that marginalised groups, such as vulnerable indigenous populations or poor small-scale farmers are not left behind. It is crucial to identify policies that perpetuate discrimination and increase inequalities, so as to address them to close the gaps. "Leave No One Behind" requires action on policy areas that are known to reduce inequalities and build resilience

Caritas Internationalis has been advocating in the past 3 years for the realization of the universal right to food by fighting the structural causes of food insecurity in its global Campaign "One Human Family, Food for All". Today it still advocates for change in policies, laws, the way we produce and consume food, but also for change in societies and cultures, so as to open access to resources for the most disadvantaged. Given that the consequences of food insecurity go well beyond hunger, hampering human development, we maintain that:

- The main solution to food insecurity is to support agriculture at small scale, considering that small-scale farmers produce most of the food that is eaten in the world and are usually not addressed by main agriculture policies;
- Lack of access to production resources, low agricultural productivity, climate change and inadequate policies are the main causes of food insecurity worldwide and communities facing these challenges should be prioritised; it is urgent to create an enabling policy environment for small-scale farmers, lifting those barriers that hamper access to production resources such as land, seeds, equipment, know-how etc., in view of changing our development paradigm, enhancing climate change adaptation and resilience, fighting poverty and inequality in the world;
- Women must have equal access to and control of resources for food production; as women make up for the majority of small-scale farmers in the world, it is crucial to revise unfair laws and policies so as to allow women equal opportunities to own, possess and make use of land, means of production, access training, education and opportunities to actively participate in public affairs;
- A good agricultural market system, in particular the promotion of local markets, is a powerful instrument to avert the consequences of food insecurity for marginalised communities; policies must be adopted or, where existing, reviewed, so as to open space for small-scale farmers in domestic markets, in particular local ones, so as to enjoy access to equal income opportunities;
- Civil society dialogue with policymakers has to be opened and strengthened in view of improving policies, laws and systems to ensure food security. Civil society can play a role at different levels, such as gathering data and evidence, engaging in research, policy and advocacy, holding governments to account and delivering services to the most marginalised.

5. Provide dedicated resources for all to participate

Legitimate and authentic participatory processes require investment. Resources and capacity are enablers for effective use of information and meaningful participation in the SDG implementation; without these enablers, participation processes can disproportionately favour those with greater resources. It must be ensured that resources and capacity-building reach all, especially marginalised groups.

Vatican City, 22 April 2016

United Nations E/2016/NGO/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Center for Global Nonkilling, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

16-08201 (E) 250516

Please recycle

Statement*

The Center for Global Nonkilling and Åbo Akademi University convened, in March 2016, an international conference on the topic "Peaceful, Killing-free Societies as a Sustainable Development Goal" seeking to contribute to the debate around the 2030 Agenda. The conveners celebrated the inclusion of building killing-free societies as an integral part of the SDGs in target 16.1 and in other targets that address violence directly or through the interconnected risk factors that perpetuate its deadly societal circle (3.4, 3.5, 4.2, 4.7, 4a, 5.2, 5.3, 11.7, 16.2, 16.3).

The inclusion of prevention and reduction of killing as a measurable component of SDGs provides unique social, political and institutional momentum to put violence prevention policies, programs and strategies into effective practise. The following recommendations are submitted as a contribution toward implementation:

1. Measurability: Making progress toward killing-free societies requires taking all deaths equally seriously. We strongly recommend that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly adopt the indicators proposed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, including the measurement of conflict-related deaths.

2. Accountability: The lack of legally binding commitments represents a significant drawback of the SDGs framework. We strongly recommend that mechanisms for accountability are put into place allowing civil society to engage through independent progress reports, reviews and recommendations.

3. Interdependence: Negative and mutually reinforcing links exist between violence and development. Failure to address lethality and other forms of violence together with its risk factors can jeopardize other development goals. The "Vasa Statement on Education for Killing-Free Societies" is an example of cross-SDG integration of violence prevention.

4. Understand the Burden of Killing: Violence takes a huge toll on human life and well-being, but also in economic terms. The frequent argument of austerity that prevents adequate investment in violence prevention must be placed against the backdrop of massive spending on failed coercive "solutions" to violence. Serious consideration must be given to a systematic shift of resources toward prevention efforts at all stages.

5. Enhance the Right to Life: Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights proclaims that "Every human being has the inherent right to life". A shift is required from the politics of taking life to the politics of affirming it, ensuring existing laws relevant to violence prevention are fully enforced and that departments, infrastructures and constitutional provisions for peace, disarmament and nonkilling are put into place.

6. Learn from Sustainable and Peaceful Communities: More research and first-hand experiential knowledge of communities that are engaging in sustainable and nonviolent ways of living is needed. The current planetary ecological crisis is also a crisis of imagination, and positive role models are needed to foster creative thinking regarding what is possible and show practical ways to transform unsustainable/violent societies into sustainable and peaceful ones.

---

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

Statement

Infrastructure for Sustainable Development for All

The SDGs are "global goals" but they are often pursued in the contrasting realities of developing and developed world. Our implementation strategy for the SDGs must consider, and be tailed to suit, these different realities. So should our discussions on infrastructure, which must take into account local conditions and realities.

The role and objectives of infrastructure in the developing world are and should be different from those in the developed world. Infrastructure for sustainable development must address the needs of underprivileged, developing, and rural societies. On the other hand, it must inspire responsibility in more affluent and developed societies. The strategy we put forward for infrastructure should thus be two pronged, addressing both halves of the globe.

In the developing world, where the vast majority of the world's poor reside, tackling poverty should be the primary focus of infrastructure. In other words, the most important connection for infrastructure in the developing world must be to SDG 1: no poverty.

Of the 700 million people lifted out of poverty during the MDG period, 500 million were from China. State-led infrastructure and industrial development was critical in enabling this change in China — creating jobs, access to jobs, and better living conditions. The strategy of state led infrastructure development for emerging economies should be revisited and embraced by the international community. It remains critical to global growth.

A focus on SDG 1 does not mean exclusion of the other SDGs. It means only a reasonable concession to economic, historical, and practical realities. Chinese infrastructure projects have not only helped to eradicate poverty; they have also helped realize progress in other SDG areas, such as providing access to a variety of services. And while China faces environmental challenges, it is also working to develop more sustainable infrastructure, such as renewable energy and high-speed rail.

China's more recent infrastructure projects are indicative of the role infrastructure should play in the developed world. In the developed world, where per capita GHG emissions are multiples of the world average, the primary focus of infrastructure should be SGDs 11 and 12: sustainable production and consumption in sustainable communities. The developed world must return to a lifestyle that emphasizes sustainability as a core value that distinguishes between needs and wants. Infrastructure can help drive this change.

Infrastructure in the developed world must help to promote the development of communities which are frugal and resource efficient. Urbanization, sustainable transport, and ICTs are all forms of infrastructure that can help to achieve this end. Building convenient public transport in areas once dominated by the automobile is one example of how infrastructure can help promote sustainability. ICTs that eliminate the need for travel altogether are another.

Ultimately, every one of us, rich and poor, in rural and urban communities, has a role to play in the achievement of the SDGs. In realizing a world that develops sustainably, we share a common denominator of respect: respect for our fellow man's needs, for nature's needs, for future generations' needs, and for humanity's spiritual needs.